
S H O C H I K U

"SHOCHIKUBAI-KOI-NO-EDOZOME"


Kabuki Play in I Act

Written by ----- FUKUMORI-Kyusuke

Dramatized by ----- IWAYA-Shin'ichi

TO be presented by KICHIEMON, ENNOSUKE & SOJURO Troupe
at THE TOKYO THEATRE from January 2nd to
1949

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Synopsis:

O-Shichi, daughter of a green-grocer of Edo was a pretty girl who was reputed for looking very like the celestial's statue in the cathedral Kishoin. She was in love with Kichiza, a page of the temple.

The Kiso army were invading Edo and the citizens took refuge in the Kishoin temple, O-Shichi and Chobei the rouge-dealer among them.

Meantime General Noriyori had taken fancy to O-Shichi and sent a party of pursuers after her.

So Chobei camouflaged her as the celestial's statue on the fanlight and the temple was all upside down with a feign funeral and such pretends.

Kichisaburo, on the other hand, regained the treasure-sword of which he was in search.

This is an Edo comic play in which Ben-Cho (Chobei the rouge-dealer) has a wheel of business.

Characters:

Kichisaburo, the page

Junai, his vallet

Naganuma-Rokuro, Lord Noriyori's retainer

Kamaya-Buhei, Rokuro's fellow retainer

Chobei, the rouge-dealer

Bishop Getsuwa, chief priest of the Kisshoin cathedral

O-Shichi, daughter of the mistress of the green grocer
Yaoza

O-Take, O-Shichi's mother

O-Sugi, her maid

O-Shika }
O-Katsu } - O-Shichi's friends
O-San }

Ryonen }
Kainen } - Priests

etc.

THE scene is the main chapel of the cathedral Kichijoji. An altar in the middle, a statue of a celestial on the faulight.

As the curtain rises, O-Shika, O-Katsu and O-San, O-Shichi's friends, come hurrying in.

Shika: Oh, O-San, you're so slow.

Katsu: This is the Kichijoji temple, you know

San: Oh, is it? We've run so quickly.

Shika: Well, the Kiso army has invaded the Itabashi village, they say. So the town is all upside-down, and we've come to hide ourselves in this campus.

Katsu: We've had so bad a time of it.

San: Well, how is our friend O-Shichi, I wonder?

Katsu: Well, I asked at the gate about her and they told me she hadn't come yet.

Shika: Hope she'd come soon.

Katsu: Her mother is so anxious about her.

Shika: Look. There comes her mother.

Girls: Oh, she does.

(O-Take, O-Shichi's mother, comes into the stage-passage with Chobei the rouge-dealer and his servant-boy.)

Chobei: Rouge! Rouge! Don't you want rouge?

Boy: Rouge! Rouge!

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Katsu: Well, I asked at the gate about her and they told me she hadn't come yet.

Shika: Hope she'd come soon.

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Shika: Look. There comes her mother.

Girls: Oh, she does.

(O-Take, O-Shichi's mother, comes into the stage-passage with Chobei the rouge-dealer and his servant-boy.)

Chobei: Rouge! Rouge! Don't you want rouge?

Boy: Rouge! Rouge!

Take: Please, Chobei. Don't call so, it's in the campus of a temple.

Chobei: Oh, I'm a rouge-dealer. I'll call "rouge, rouge," anywhere I go. It's just business, you know. You want to sell vegetables. The priests wait for people to dye. That's all just business.

Take: Well, it's just natural. But you are good friends with my daughter O-Shichi and were one of the best friends of my dead husband Kyubei. So I want you to comfort her in this confusion. Will you just give up being a business man and join us for today?

Cho: Well, then, shall I take a holiday today and are you going to treat me with delicious things?

Boy: How nice.

Cho: Oh, don't be so greedy

Foy: You are being greedy

Cho: You impertinent. I'll just beat you.

Boy: I'll just run away

Cho: You're ~~sk~~ slanderous. Shall we go, na'am?

(They come into the main stage.)

Shika: Hello, O-Shichi's mother. Glad to see you well.

Katsu: And where is O-Shichi?

Take: Hasn't she come yet? I've lost sight of her at the crowded corner.

San: Oh, is she all safe?

Cho: Oh, you needn't worry. O-Sugi is with her.

Shika: How have you come here, Mr. Rouge-dealer?

Cho: Shall we play blindman's buff when O-Shichi comes?

Katsu: Don't be so every-going, Chobei. The town's going to be in a tumult.

Cho: Oh, sure. (laughs)

Take: Well, Chobei, why is it that people call you Ben-Cho? Is it your nom de plume?

Cho: Oh, no. I've got no time to write poets. Your daughter has named me.

Take: You mean O-Shichi?

Cho: Well, my real name is Chobei the rouge-dealer (Beniya-Chobei) so they call me Beni-Cho in abbreviation, and it's become Ben-Cho at last.

Take: Now I understand. It sounds like a priest's name.

Cho: It's natural for I once was one.

Well, is my god-mother coming?

Take: She's always slow in walking

Shika: There she comes.

Cho: Certainly (Calls) Miss O-Shichi!

(O-Shichi comes in through the stage-passage, accompanied by the maid O-Sugi.)

Take: Oh, O-Shichi. You're friends are waiting for you.

Shichi: I've tried to catch up with you, mother. But I feel palpitation when I walk too fast. And the wind plays with my dress, too.

Cho: The wind plays with your clothes?
Shichi: So that I can hardly walk.
Cho: Oh, poor.
Sugi: Glad to see you here, Ben-Cho.
Cho: Well, I've come here, for I feel uneasy if I don't see Miss O-Shichi for a day.
Sugi: You're so fair-spoken.
Cho: Are you going to be taken in?
Sugi & Cho: (laugh.)
Sugi: Now, Miss O-Shichi, your mother's so good humoured today. Tell her about that
Shichi: That?
Sugi: Certainly.
Shichi: Won't she be angry?
Sugi: Don't worry, Miss O-Shichi. Just tell her.
Shichi: No, Mother, I've got something to tell you.
Take: What's that?
Shichi: Well-----
Sugi: Don't hesitate, Miss O-Shichi.
Shichi: Well, mother, don't you think that Master Kichiza looks very charming?
Take: Yes, he does. What about it?
Shichi: Well-----
Take: Well?
Shichi: Won't you let me marry him?
(Hides her face.)
All: Why!

Cho: What a state of things!

Take: What do you mean by saying such a thing before so many people? And you, O-Sugi, why did you tell her to tell me about it? What a shame. Never say that again. Master Kichiza is to become a priest in time.

Shichi: What shall I do? (Cries)

Sugi: Oh, don't be so cross. Do you feel sick?

Take: Well, she's my only daughter and I'd wish to have her marry a man she loves, of course. But we've borrowed the sum of 200 ryo from Kamaya-Bukei and have promised to marry her to him if we can't pay the debt. My shop cannot be kept up if she refuses it.

Cho: Oh, don't say that now, for she is good-humoured now. It'll be all right if you'll only pay the money.

Take: Of course I don't want to force her to marry a man she dislikes, but -----

Cho: So you'd better let her have her way. It'd be better for her illness, too.

Sugi: You don't mean what you've just said, do you ma'am?

Take: I always mean what I say.

Cho: Well, well. (Making a sign) You don't mean it, you don't; do you?

Take: Oh, I see. I don't. I really don't.

Cho: That's it.

Take: I'd just let her marry a man she likes and get me a grand-child.

Cho: You must get well first, so as to get a baby.

Shichi: Are you in earnest, mother?

Take: Of course.

Shichi: I'll just get well at once if only you'd let me marry him.

Sugi: You'd better mend your toilette.
Tears are on your face. .

Take: Turn this way. I'll dry your tears.

Cho: You're happy now. Do smile, Miss O-Shichi.

Shichi: Don't tease me, Chobei.

Cho: All right. I'll tickle you.

Shichi: Oh, don't.

Cho: I must make you smile.
(Chobei tickles O-Shichi. O-Shichi laughs.)

Cho: Oh, you've smiled at last.
(They laugh. Akazawa-Junai, a vallet, comes in through the stage-passage.)

Junai: Oh, you're all so merry among this tumult

Take: Oh, you're Mr. Junai. What has brought you here?

Ju: I've got an urgent news for master Kichisaburo who stays here. Well, I'm glad your daughter has become well. Master Kichisaburo was to become a priest, but it won't offend the Buddha if he returns to secular life.

Take: Oh, is he going back to his clan?

Ju: The Takatori clan in Omi will receive him if only he'll find the sword named Tengoku.

Shichi: Oh, is he going back home?

Ju: Oh, yes he'll go back home and marry Lady O-Hina, daughter of the chief retainer of the clan.

Shichi: Why.

Ju: Oh, why are you so surprised?
It's been decided that he'll get married as soon as he goes home.

Take: Oh, he must be very happy, then.

Shichi: What shall I do, O-Sugi?

Sugi: Oh, you feel unwell again.
Now, folks, it's not true, is it?

Cho: Oh, it's not.

Chichi: But-----

Cho: Leave it all to me.
(Chobei signs O-Shichi's friends to retire. The girls go out.

Ju: What's wrong with your daughter, ma'am?

Take: I'm quite at a loss. Well, she is in love with that Master Kichiza.

Ju: Oh, is she-----?

Take: She has been ill for that, too.
Well, Mr. Junai, it may be too forward of me, but won't you help me by recommending my precious daughter as Master Kichiza's wife?

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Well, Mr. Junai, it may be too forward of me, but won't you help me by recommending my precious daughter as Master Kichiza's wife?

- Ju: You once was a warrior's wife, but you've become so unseasonable now that you've become a city woman. Excited as he is, he is the heir to the Takashima family. He can't get married with a green-grocer's daughter.
- Take: It's quite natural you say so. Don't say any more, please.
- Ju: Do you understand it, then?
- Take: I was mistaken to have said such a thing-----it's a parent's ~~inner~~ bewilderment I'm ashamed of it.
(tries to hide her tears.)
- Ju: Human love and longing is inevitable
Even a saint is influenced by that It's natural your only daughter should be spoiled. But, as for my young Master Kichiza, it's highly improper of him to have neglected his duty of searching for the treasure sword because of his love of a woman.
I'll have to go and make and admonish.
(Kichisaburo, attired as a page, comes into the stage passage with a bunch of flowers in his hand.)
- Kichiza: Grasses and trees, though unhuman, know when to open their flowers.
(Kichiza comes into the main stage)
- Ju: Oh, hells, Master Kichiza.
- Kichi: Oh, Junai, it's been long since I saw you last.

Ju: I've been very busy searching for the treasure sword. I've got something to tell you.

Kichiza: I'll listen to you in my room.

(About to stand up.)

Ju: Wait a minute, please, Master. (Accompanied by a samisen music.) You must know quite well that you have the important duty of searching for the treasure sword. Well, the term is coming soon. If you can't find it by the day, your Lord Samon-no-suke will have to commit a happy despatch. Then you won't be able to return to the clan and marry your betrothed young lady. Moreover, I've heard that you're secretly intimate with a merchant's daughter. How shameless of you.

Kichiza: It's natural you should think so.

It was some time ago that her family took shelter here after their house was burnt up. While they stayed here for some time, she once sent me a letter, which caused me the infame of a firter, though and took no notion of what she said. I know quite well that my duty of searching for the sword is very important. Take it easy, for I'm not so irresponsible.

Ju: Now I know what you really think
Excuse me for mistaking it, please.

Kichi: I understand that what you have said is out of your loyalty.

Be always very careful with the search, Junai.

Ju: I'll just go to my brother Jissaku and consult him about it.

Kichi: Be very, very careful.

Ju: I hope I'll inform you with good news soon.

(Chobei the rouge-dealer comes in.)

Cho: Well, the Kiso army is coming again when I've come to feel a little easy.

Well, well, well; I'd like to go and help them, but O-Shichi has asked me something, so I can't go. Ah, I wish I had two bodies.

(Goes out through the stage passage.)

Soon Chobei's errand-boy comes in.)

Boy: Well, the Kiso army is coming again when I've come to feel a little easy. Well, well, well, I'd like to go and help them, but I've been asked to do a certain thing for O-Shichi so I can't go.

Ah, I wish I had two bodies. (Goes out through the stage-passage.)

(Naganuma-kokuro, Lord Noriyori's follower, comes in with Kamaya-Buhei and soldiers)

Roku: Hey, come out, chief priest.

(Kainen and Ryomen, priests of the temple, come in.)

Kai: What's happened?

Roku: Are you the chief priest?

Ryo: No, I'm only one of the minor priests.

Roku: Call the chief priest here.

Oh, I'm so thirsty. Give me some tea or water.

Kai: Certainly. (Gives Rokuro a cup of tea.)

(Ryonen offers an ash-tray to Rokuro, who pours the ash into his mouth mistaking for tea.)

Buhei: Oh, what are you doing, sir?

Roku: Don't be so careless----- Well, priest, O-Shichi, the green grocer's daughter, has come here, I presume?

Kai: Well, yes----some time ago-----

Ryo: Well, sir, some time ago----- someone else has asked us about it, but she hasn't been here from this morning on.

Buhei: It can't be so. I've been to the grocer's shop and heard that she has come to shelter herself here from the Kiso attack.

Ryo: She hasn't come, anyway.

Roku: You impertinent priests. My master Lord Noriyori has taken fancy to O-Shichi who looks very like the celestial's statue put on the faulight. He has sent us two here to persuade her to become his mistress. It's highly improper of you not to obey Lord Noriyori's order.

Ryo: But I swear he isn't here.

Roku: You still try to deceive me. All right. Let's just make a raid. Come on, folks.

Followers: Certainly.

(Just then, Bishop Getsuwa, the chief priest, comes in with two other priests.)

Bishop: Be calm, please.

Roku: Are you the chief priest?

Bishop: Certainly I am. However, I haven't heard a word of O-Shichi's coming here.

Bu: Oh, haven't you?

Bishop: Certainly not.

Roku: Are you sure?

Bishop: The Buddha's priest never lie.

Bu: But they said that she had started home for this temple. Can she be so slow?

Roku: She's coming soon, I presume. Let's just wait here.

Bu: Certainly we shall.

Roku: By the way, is this the famous celestial's statue made by Hidari-Jingoro?

Bishop: Certainly, sir.

Roku: It's very pretty. O-Shichi must be very good-looking, as she is said to be like this.

(A young warrior hurries in.)

Warrior: Mr. Naganuma-----

Roku: What's so urgent?

Warrior: Well, an express messenger has come from Itabashi asking you to be waiting for the next order in your own camp. I'll have to take the ^{news} ~~XXXX~~ to other places. Please go back at once.

Roku: How is the circumstance, I wonder? It's regrettable to go without seeing O-Shichi, but I'll have to go, I'm afraid. Fare-you-well, Buhei.

(Rokuro hurries out, followed by his followers.)

Buhei: "Fare-you-well, Buhei". What's that? Well, fare-you-well.

(Hurries out.)

Bishop: Oh, they're so hasty.

Kai: The warriors were so noisy people.

Ryo: As noisy as the crows.

Bishop: Don't be so ill-tongued, people. And be careful and don't tell anybody that O-Shichi is here.

Both: Certainly not.

(O-Take, O-Shichi and O-Sugi hurry in.)

Take: Thank you so much for your arrangement Mr. Bishop.

Shichi: I don't know how to thank you enough.

Sugi: Beni-Cho wasn't with ~~us~~ us, and so I was so anxious.

Take: Reverend falker's arrangement has saved us out of a distress.

Shichi: I'm so very glad about it.

Bishop: The Sutra says that the end justifies the means.

All: (Laugh)

Bishop: But you shall have to be very, very careful, for that.
Buhei is very smart a man.

Take: Be always on our side, please.
(Chobei the rouge-dealer comes in through the stage passage.)

Chobei: Something awful has happened.

Take: What's that, Chobei?

Cho: Oh, I'm out of breath. Give me some water.

Sugi: Here. (Lets him drink.)

Shichi: Is the fighting coming this way?

Cho: Oh, no. It's beyond Itabashi.

Sugi: What's that, then?

Cho: Lord Noriyori is coming here himself to get
O-Shichi the grocer's daughter.
He's come to Hongo the fifth street.

Bishop: Lord Noriyori coming himself?

Sugi: It's so awful.

Shichi: What am I to do Ben-Cho?

Cho: Don't be so anxious. You won't be handed to
them so long as I stay with you.

Take: Well, I want to think so, but there's nowhere to
take refuge in-----

Sugi: What are we to do?

Cho: Well, I'm at a loss. Somewhere to hide her-----
(Looks round.) Oh, that's it. (Shouts.)

All: (Laugh)

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take refuge in-----

Sugi: What are we to do?

Cho: Well, I'm at a loss. Somewhere to hide her-----
(Looks round.) Oh, that's it. (Shouts.)

Sugi: Oh, don't frighten me.

Cho: Well, this statue of the celestial's is well known to be like you, O-Shichi. Lord Noriyori himself took fancy to you after seeing it. Let's just hide the statue and put you in its place. No one will notice it.

Sugi: It's a good idea. But can it be moved?

Bishop: It shall be. Come, folks.

Kai: Certainly.

(The priests put a ladder against the faulight and move off the statue.)

Cho: Come up here, O-Shichi.

Shichi: Can I see Master Kichiza even if I go up there?

Cho: Certainly you can. You can see him all right if you stay up there.

Sugi: Go up first, Chobei.

Cho: Oh, yes.

(Chobei goes up on the fanlight and mimics.)

Cho: Put your ~~right~~ leg like this-----

Bishop: Oh, you may carry the lotus-flower like this-----
and put up your left foot.

Cho: This is the model, Miss O-Shichi.

Come up quick, before the warriors come.

(Chobei comes down and lets O-Shichi go up.)

Shichi: How shall I sit?

Cho: you're so stupid. Put up your leg so----hold the
lotus-flower so-----

Shichi: Like this?

Cho: That's it. Look, Mr. Bishop.

Bishop: She looks just like the celestial

Take: How very like.

Cho: Never speak, whoever my come.

Shichi: Shall I be as silent as a doll?

Cho: That's it.

Take: And what shall we do?

Cho: I've got an idea.

Take: What's that?

Cho: Well, that is----- (Whispers something in O-Take's
ears.)

Take: Well, then, we'll make them believe we're dead, and

Cho: I'll get into a coffin in your place-----

Take: I see. (nods.)

Cho: Come, get ready.

Bishop: Come on.

(All go out Soon Naganuma-Rokuro comes in with
many warriors.)

Roku: Now, folks, it's Lord Noriyori's order.
Make a search of O-Shichi throughout the campus.

Warriors: Certainly, sir.

Roku: Oh, wait a minute. (Looking up at the fanlight.)
Well, well, the famous statue of the celestial
is really well-done.

Warriors: Certainly it is.

Roku: It looks as if alive ----- no wonder my lord has taken
fancy to it.

Warrior: We'll have to make haste in finding O-Shichi for
him.

Roku: Sure, sure. But where can she have gone? Where?

Warrior: O-Shichi has been flown away.
(The article in pawn is forfeited.)

Roku: You fool. Stop nonsense. Go and make a search.

Followers: All right sir.

Roku: Go on.

Followers: Certainly.

(The warriors go out. Rokuro stumbles over his
spear.)

Roku: Alas, my spear (Yari) has forsaken (yari) me.
(Goes out.)

(Kichisaburo, the page, appears, accompanied by a
samisen music)

Kichi: It's so noisy. Has the Kiso army come?

(Meantime O-Shichi, seeing Kichi-za, wants to
come down but cannot.)

Kichi (without noticing her.): But, as Junai has advised me, I shall have to make haste in the search of the sword. I'll pray the Buddha to help me.)

(Kichiza makes homage to the altar. O-Shichi drops a piece of paper, then the lotus-flower to call his attention.)

Kichi (surprised): ~~Sh~~ Why, the celestial's statue has moved and dropped the flower. Why, you're O-Shichi-----

Shichi: (bashfully) Yes.

Kichi: What for are you up there?

Shichi: Because they've told me I'll be able to see you if I stay here.

Kichi: What do you mean?

Shichi: They told me I'll be able to see-----

Kichi: Whom?

Shichi: Well-----

Kichi: Well?

Shichi: Y-----

Kichi: Y?

Shichi: O--- ----

Kichi: O?

Shichi: U. (Hides her face.)

Kichi: Me? You've mounted up there to see me? Aren't you frightened?

(A funeral music sounds behind stage. O-Shichi, frightened, falls down.

Kichi: Oh, dangerous. Haven't you been hurt, O-Shichi?

Shichi: Oh, no. (Draws closer to him)

Kichi: Oh, leave me alone. Someone's coming

Shichi: No one's coming

Kichi: Leave me alone, lest someone should come.

Shichi: I've got something to tell you before anyone comes.

Kichi: Hurry, then

Shichi: Well, you came to my house on the Doll's Festival last year-----

Kichi: Your dolls were very fine ones. May I come this year?

Shichi: What the festival dolls symbolize?

Kichi: Oh, the happy conjugal harmony of the deities Sumiyoshi and Awashima. Girls celebrate it praying for such happy life.

Shichi: Is the conjugal harmony between a man and a woman?

Kichi: Of course it is.

Shichi: Then, shall we, you and I----

Kichi: What-----?

Shichi: Follow their example?

(The funeral music again O-Shichi, frightened, clings to Kichiza.)

Kichi: Oh, we'll be seen. Let me alone. Don't be frightened, it's only a funeral.

Shichi: (Clings to him, weeping.)

(Beni-cho speaks behind the stage.)

Cho: It may be by karma, but it's so sad she should have died when she was all well and sound just yesterday)

Shichi: It'd be easier if I died and were buried.

Look here, Kichiza. I carry the fan you gave me on the Doll's Festival day always next to my skin; for a couple of mandarin duck are painted on it. I'd be so happy if I could always be hand in hand with you like the couple of the birds. Oh, don't feel pity for me, when I'm so deeply in love with you? Will you make a search of the sword of Tengoku and then go home to get married to your betrothed?

Kichi: It's natural you should resent me, but I shall have to go home after the sword has been found. You me give me up and do your duty to your mother.

Shichi: Will you forsake me, then?

Kichi: It can't be otherwise. Give me up, I pray you.

Shichi: Alas. (Bursts into tears and swoons/ Kichiza gets frightened. Chobei hurries to them and takes care of her.)

Cho: Oh, I don't know what's happened. O-Shichi has died.

Kichi: Oh, what shall I do?

Cho: Just call her to life

Kichi: O-Shichi, O-Shichi.

Cho: Miss O-Shichi. You're so stupid in taking care of a sick person. Isn't there any water?

Kichi: All right. (Brings a pitcher of water.) Here it is. Drink, Miss O-Shichi.

Cho: Oh, she can't. You must feed her from mouth to mouth.

(Kichiza does so. O-Shichi comes to her conscience.)

Cho: Oh, has she come to herself?

Kichi: Cheer up, Miss O-Shichi.

Shichi: Oh, are you going home leaving me behind?

Kichi: I'll have to find the treasure sword first.

Cho: She'll swoon again.

Kichi: But----

Shichi: Will you marry me?

Cho: Or, will you let her die before your very eyes?

Both: What's your answer?

Kichi: I give up.

Shichi: Will you listen to me?

Kichi: Certainly.

Shichi: (Clinging to Kichiza) : How happy I am.

Buhei's voice: Come this way, folks.

Cho: That is Buhei's voice. Go away, both of you.

Shichi: Come, Kichiza.

Cho: Hurry on.

(The three go out. Buhei comes in through the stage passage, followed by many warriors.)

Buhei: I'm sure O-Shichi, and her mother must be in this temple. Don't fail to find her, folks, it's the order of Lord Noriyori.

Soldiers: Certainly.

(Just as the soldiers are about to invade the temple, Ryonen the priest appears eating rice.)

Ryo: Oh, the noisy sounds ~~xxxx~~ causes me indigestion.

Buhei (catching hold of Ryonen): Wait, you priest. You must know where O-Shichi is. Just tell me.

(Shakes Ryonen.)

Soldiers: Tell us where she is.

Ryo: Ouch. I've just finished eating. I'll cast up the things if you shake me so.

Buhei: Out with it

Ryo: The only thing I can cast up is the rice I've just eaten.

Buhei: I'll make you out with it. Say what you know.

Ryo: Oh, I shall, I shall.

Buhei: Well, where is O-Shichi?

Ryo: She has died.

Buhei: Why, she has died?

Ryo: Her mother O-Take, too, has killed herself because of the sorrow.

Buhei: You liar. Come on, folks; let's invade.

Soldiers: Certainly

(Just as the soldiers are about to break in, four young men come in carrying a coffin. They rush against Buhei.)

Buhei: Don't stand in my way. We're in a search.

Soldiers: Get out of our way.

A warrior: Well, the priest has said that O-Shichi had died. There must be something about this coffin.

Buhei: Quite suspectable.

Young man: Are you going to take the coffin by force?

Buhei: Let's just examine in

Soldiers: All right

(The soldiers open the coffin

A dead body appears out of it and swaggers about.

All but Buhei and the dead body go out.)

Buhei: Fie on it. I thought they were going to let O-Shichi escape in a coffin, but it was a real dead body. But is it that the body has been inspired with some demon spirit, that it has stood up and walks? Oh, I can't waste my time, for I'm in search of O-Shichi.

(A comic scene in which the dead body prevents Buhei from going out. Buhei is knocked out at last.)

Buhei: Ouch- ----- (After a pause.)

Well, what shall I do with the body? Oh, here's some sand. I'll make it rest in peace under the sand.

(Buhei showers the sand over the dead body. The body falls.)

Buhei: Now it is all right

(As Buhei looks proudly round himself, Chobei appears from the second coffin and showers much sand over Buhei, who falls under it.)

Cho: Serve you right.

(Chobei retires Kichiza comes in, ushered by Akazawa-Junai.)

Ju: Now, Master Kichiza. What do you hesitate for? My brother Jissaku has found where the sword is. Come with me at once, please.

Kichi: I've got some duty to do here.

Ju: How shameless of you to be so much bewildered by a woman! There's nothing left to do here. You may regain the sword and come home.

Kichi: But-----

Ju: Come with me, please. (Takes Kichiza away.)
(Naganuma-Rokuro comes in, drawing Kainen and another priest behind him.)

Roku: Now, priest, are you still trying to keep it secret? Aren't you going to confess where O-Shichi is?

Kai: We can't, even if you torture me----

Priest: For we don't know where she is

Roku: I shall make you confess.

(Chobei appears stealthily into stage and showers sand over Rokuro, who falls under the sand.)

Soldiers: How is this?

(Chobei showers sand over the soldiers, who run away from the scene.)

Cho: Ha-ha-ha. They're all fools. Now I've done with them.

(O-Shichi and O-Sugi appear into stage, looking half mad.)

Shichi: (Cries as she runs into stage) Are you going home and leaving me behind? It's so heartless of you. Wait, wait, please, Master Kichiza.

Sugi: Oh, dangerous, Miss O-Shichi.

Shichi: Don't mind such a trifle. My dear, dear Master Kichiza is going to forsake me.

Cho: Has he run away, then?

Shichi: I'll just follow him anywhere he goes and marry him. (About to go.)

Buhei (sitting up): I won't let you go

All: Oh.

Cho: You rascal.

(Chobei showers sand over Buhei, who falls again.)

Cho: Hurry out, hurry out.

Shichi: Come, O-Sugi.

Sugi: Yes, Miss O-Shichi.

(The two go out.)

(Rokuro-stands up.)

Roku: I won't let them go.

(As rokuro is about to follow, Chobei showers sand over him. Rokuro falls again.)

Cho: It has worked.

(Wooden clappers.)

Cho: Hail to the Buddha Amitbha. If a Hokke priest falls into a ditch, no one will ever help him out of it (play or words.) (So chanting, showers sand over the curtain-keeper. The curlain-keeper falls.)

Cho: Well, I'm blessed. (Pulls the curtain himself.)

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